

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 172**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Beth Gaines**

August 7, 2014

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 172—Relative to Diabetes Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 172, as introduced, Beth Gaines. Diabetes Awareness Month. This measure would declare November 2014 as Diabetes Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, With more than 25 million Americans living with  
2 a diabetes diagnosis, and many more going undiagnosed, diabetes  
3 affects people across our country and remains a pressing national  
4 health concern; and  
5 WHEREAS, Nearly 3 million Californians have diabetes,  
6 meaning that more than 1 out of 10 adult Californians has diabetes;  
7 and  
8 WHEREAS, From 1998 to 2007, the prevalence of diagnosed  
9 diabetes rose from 5.5 percent to 7.6 percent, representing a  
10 38-percent increase in one decade; and  
11 WHEREAS, California has the greatest number of people in the  
12 United States who are newly diagnosed with diabetes; and  
13 WHEREAS, In 2007, about 7.9 million or 29 percent of adults  
14 in California, or nearly one in three, had prediabetes, a condition  
15 that often precedes type II diabetes; and

1 WHEREAS, Prevalence of gestational diabetes, diabetes that  
2 occurs in the context of pregnancy, has increased 60 percent in  
3 California in just seven years, from 3.3 percent of hospital  
4 deliveries in 1998, to 5.3 percent in 2005; and

5 WHEREAS, Small studies suggest a consistent increase in  
6 diabetes among children and youth; and

7 WHEREAS, California's ethnically diverse population has a  
8 higher risk and prevalence of type II diabetes; and

9 WHEREAS, Individuals with type II diabetes often do not  
10 exhibit symptoms; and

11 WHEREAS, Diabetes is a chronic disease for which there is no  
12 known cure, and is the sixth leading cause of death in the United  
13 States; and

14 WHEREAS, The serious long-term complications of high blood  
15 sugar levels may include blindness, lower-extremity amputation,  
16 heart disease, kidney failure, and premature death; and

17 WHEREAS, The keys to reducing the incidence of, and  
18 complications associated with, diabetes are education, early  
19 detection, control, and proper treatment; and

20 WHEREAS, The earlier a person is diagnosed with diabetes  
21 and receives treatment, the better the person's chances are for  
22 avoiding diabetes complications; and

23 WHEREAS, The first line of treatment recommended by all  
24 treatment standards is diet and exercise, because a healthy diet and  
25 the loss of excess weight can have a positive impact on the body's  
26 ability to fight off disease; and

27 WHEREAS, It has been shown that modest weight loss may  
28 help to lower blood sugar, blood pressure, and improve the level  
29 of fats in the bloodstream, and may be beneficial to the treatment  
30 of diabetes and other metabolic diseases; and

31 WHEREAS, Traditionally, those at highest risk for diabetes  
32 included older, overweight citizens who had a history of diabetes  
33 in their families. However, in recent years there has been an  
34 alarming increase in the growing number of younger individuals  
35 who are being diagnosed with diabetes, which is attributed to  
36 lifestyle and excessive body mass; and

37 WHEREAS, Total health care and related costs for the treatment  
38 of diabetes in California alone is about \$24.5 billion each year;  
39 and

1 WHEREAS, Diabetes in California represents a significant and  
2 growing economic drain for families, employers, and communities,  
3 especially during these difficult economic times; and

4 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama has proclaimed November  
5 2013 as National Diabetes Month; now, therefore, be it

6 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
7 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature declares November 2014  
8 as Diabetes Awareness Month; and be it further

9 *Resolved*, That individuals are encouraged to seek early  
10 screening and early treatment to reduce the rate of diabetes and its  
11 complications among high-risk populations; and be it further

12 *Resolved*, That health care workers are encouraged to improve  
13 care for the control of diabetes and the treatment of major  
14 complications; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That health care providers are encouraged, as they  
16 detect and treat the emerging diabetes epidemic, to engage in an  
17 aggressive program with their patients that includes a treatment  
18 regimen that meets and exceeds minimum treatment guidelines,  
19 as well as measurements of body weight and other associated risk  
20 factors; and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
22 this resolution to the California Medical Association, the State  
23 Department of Health Care Services, and to the author for  
24 distribution.